

In the Claims:

1-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured adapted to:

construct a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

49. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

an audio package builder/export tool configured adapted to:

access the centralized database;

construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where wherein the audio package an audio segment may be located in the audio package; and

export the audio package to the gateway,

wherein said index file is configured adapted to map an audio identifier of the audio segment in the centralized database to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package in the centralized database.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway over a packet based network.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said system is configured adapted to operate on a provisioning server.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein each of said audio segments comprises a unique audio identifier.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured ~~adapted~~ to present a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio segments file comprises a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

55. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

- a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

- an audio package builder/export tool configured ~~adapted~~ to:

 - access the centralized database;

 - construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

 - construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway

 - where wherein the audio package an audio segment may be located in the audio package; and

 - export the audio package to the gateway,

- wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured ~~adapted~~ to construct the ~~the~~ [[an]] audio package from audio segments in the centralized database by performing one or more of the following steps:

 - add audio segments to the audio package in the centralized database;

 - delete audio segments from the audio package in the centralized database; and

 - lock the audio package in the centralized database.

56. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;
an audio package builder/export tool configured ~~adapted~~ to:
access the centralized database;
construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway ~~where~~ ~~wherein the audio package~~ an audio segment may be located in the audio package; and
export the audio package to the gateway,
wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured ~~adapted~~ to track a version number of any audio package ~~packages~~ created with the audio package builder/export tool.

57. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured ~~adapted~~ to export the audio package to the gateway by preliminarily exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured ~~adapted~~ to export the audio package to the gateway by exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising provisioning the centralized database with audio segments.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising constructing a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

62. (Currently Amended) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

- accessing audio segments within a centralized database;
- constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
- constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located;
- exporting the audio package to the gateway; and
- mapping an audio identifier of the audio segment in the centralized database to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package in the centralized database.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package over a packet based network.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising associating each of said audio segments with a unique audio identifier.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising presenting a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database comprises constructing an audio package from a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

67. (Currently Amended) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

- accessing audio segments within a centralized database;
- constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
- constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located; and
- exporting the audio package to the gateway,

wherein said constructing the ~~[[an]]~~ audio package from audio segments in the centralized data base comprises one or more of the following steps:

- adding audio segments to the audio package in the centralized database;
- deleting audio segments from the audio package in the centralized database; and
- locking the audio package in the centralized database.

68. (Currently Amended) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

- accessing audio segments within a centralized database;
- constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
- constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located;
- exporting the audio package to the gateway; and
- tracking a version number of any audio package packages constructed.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway so that the gateway may selectively present the audio segments within the audio package to end users.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool constructs ~~[[and]]~~ the index file as a distinct data structure within the audio package.